

Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 3009-007: Myth and Culture

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3009.7

English 3009C-007 Myth and Culture

TTH 12:30-1:45 CH337

Dr. Susan Bazargan

Office CH323

Office Hours: TTH:2-3:30 TH:11-12:30 and by appointment

Office phone: 581-6979 Home (Champaign): 355-5784

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Required Texts:

Coomaraswamy, Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists

Easwaran, The Bhagavad-Gita

Erdoes and Ortiz, American Indian Myths and Legends

Leeming, The World of Myth

Miller, Death of a Salesman

Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks

Rosenberg, World Mythology

Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying

Sanders, The Epic of Gilgamesh

Sproul, Primal Myths

Course requirements:

I. Class attendance and participation: I call roll regularly and can disregard only two unexcused absences during the semester. If you accumulate more than three "unexplained" absences, your grade will suffer. If you are ill or have to leave campus because of a family emergency, please call my office or home and let me know.

II. Papers:

You will write two papers, each at least 5 pages long (typed, double-spaced); they may involve research. Topics will be assigned later.

III. Exams and Quizzes:

The midterm exam will be held on 3/4. The date of the final will be announced later. Pop quizzes will be given occasionally. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Grading Policy: First paper 15%; Second paper 15%; Midterm 25%; Final 25%; Quizzes 10%; Participation 10%. D-: 60-64, D: 65-67, D+:68-69; C-: 70-74; C: 75-77, C+: 78-79, B-:80-84; B: 85-87; B+: 88-89; A-: 90-94; A: 95-97; A+:98-100

Conferences:

Please stop by my office to discuss any problem or question related to the course. You can also make an appointment if my regular office hours are inconvenient for you.

Other policies:

1. The English Department's policy on plagiarism states that "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts

of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

2. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Class meetings:

1/14 Introduction to Myth and Culture (hand-out)

1/16 Sproul, "Introduction" (pp. 1-30)

1/21 BEGINNINGS: CREATION MYTHS

Sproul, pp. 80-86 (Egyptian); Rosenberg, pp. 149-158 (The Middle East, Enuma Elish)

Sproul, 135-142 (Zoroastrian)

1/23 Rosenberg, 401-407 (African, Yoruba), Rosenberg, 3-14 (Greek); Leeming, 36-39 (Hopi)

1/28 Erdoes and Ortiz, "The Good Twin and the Evil Twin" and "Old Man Coyote Makes the World"; Rosenberg, 465-476 "The Americas"

1/30 Sproul, 122-129 (Genesis); Sproul, 151-155 (Islam); Leeming 41-42 (Modern)

2/4 ENDINGS AND AFTERLIFE

Leeming: pp. 64-65; Rosenberg, "Osiris, Isis and Horus" pp. 159-168

Leeming, pp. 67-68; 68-69; 72-75 (Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian, Muslim, Hopi)

2/6 Leeming: Apocalypse, pp. 76-82; 84-85; 88-89

2/11 In-class writing

2/13 No Class (I'll be away at a conference.)

2/18 LOVE

Rosenberg, "Demeter and Persephone" 14-20; Leeming, "Adonis and Aphrodite"

Rosenberg, "Aeneas and Dido"; Leeming, "Wanjiru" 281-283

2/20 Myths of love (hand-out)

FIRST PAPER DUE

2/25 HEROES/HEROINES and the COMMUNITY

Leeming 217-221, 221-224 ("Water Jar Boy"); Rosenberg, "Introducing Quetzalcoatl" pp. 492-497); "Gassire's Lute" in Rosenberg, 410-416~

2/27 Erdoes and Ortiz, "Ordeals of the Hero" pp. 179-180, 193-209; Leeming, "Joan of Arc" 235-236

3/4: MIDTERM EXAM

3/6 : Miller, Death of a Salesman

3/11 HINDUISM

Easwaran, The Bhagavad-Gita, pp. 1-45

3/13: Easwaran (continued)

SPRING BREAK

3/25 Introduction to TIBETAN BUDDHISM:

Coomaraswamy, Chapter V, Buddha 245-250, 259-276

Film: Little Buddha

3/27 Rinpoche, Chapter two, "Impermanence"; Chapter four: "The Nature of the Mind"

4/1 Rinpoche, Chapter six: "Evolution, Karma, and Rebirth"; Chapter nine: "The Spiritual Path"

4/3 SOME MAJOR MYTHS

Black Elk Speaks

4/8 Black Elk Speaks

4/10 "The Spirit of Crazy Horse" (film)

4/15 Rosenberg, "The Odyssey"

4/17 Rosenberg, "The Odyssey"

4/22 In-class writing (final draft is due in my mailbox on May 5)

4/24 Sanders, Gilgamesh

4/29 Gilgamesh

5/1 Review and Assessment